Meeting of State Agriculture Ministers on **NCF recommendations**

†1965. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called a meeting of Agriculture Ministers of States recently in order to implement the recommendations made by the National Commission on Farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the financial conditions of the farmers and to establish agriculture as a better occupation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A Conference of State Ministers of Agriculture and Allied Sectors was organized on 22nd December, 2006 to get the comments/views of State Governments on the recommendations of the Commission. Broadly, the States are in agreement with most of the recommendations.

(d) Government have taken several steps for improving financial conditions of the farmers which include a credit Policy to increase the flow of credit to agriculture, reduction of interest on agricultural loan, minimum support price for major agricultural commodities and procurement operations keeping in view the requirement of Public Distribution System, National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to agriculture, Ground Water Recharge, Revamping agricultural extension, establishment of Central Integrated Pest Centres and Establishment of National Rainfed Area Authority apart from other Plan Schemes and Programmes.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.